

organization known as Gift of Life, Inc., whose exemplary work benefits underprivileged children by helping uninsured and low-income families meet the cost of life-saving surgery.

Since Gift of Life was founded in 1975 by members of the Rotary Club of Manhasset, this truly remarkable organization has raised money for medical care and transportation of more than 3,000 children from across the United States and around the world whose families would not otherwise be able to afford such prohibitively expensive medical care. With 44 participating hospitals in the United States, I am proud to note that three are located on Long Island, including Stony Brook University Hospital, which has performed 450 of the heart surgeries.

Recently, Stony Brook partnered with the Suffolk County chapter of Rotary International and Gift of Life to help the family of Markus Dejong, a six-year-old boy from Farmingville who required an expensive operation to repair a defective valve in his heart. His father, an Iraq war veteran, was not insured or able to afford the cost of the operation and treatment. Fortunately, Gift of Life was there to help, and I am delighted to report that Markus' operation was successful. Following a recent visit to my office with his family, I am confident that he will grow up to be healthy and strong, with a normally functioning heart, thanks in large part to Gift of Life.

Mr. Speaker I strongly agree with Dr. Steven Whitman when he said, "We never stand so tall as when we stoop to help a child." Indeed, we would be hard-pressed to find more selfless and devoted Americans who could stand as tall as the Rotarians, translators, host families, medical professionals, surgeons, sponsors and other volunteers who have given so much to this premier life-saving program. I am privileged to recognize Gift of Life and every individual associated with its truly outstanding and inspiring contributions to our community and in support of those children who need our help the most.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. JIM GIBBONS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 11, 2006*

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to explain how I would have voted on July 10, 2006 during rollcall votes No. 358 and No. 359 during the second session of the 109th Congress. Rollcall vote No. 358 was on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 2563. Rollcall vote No. 359 was on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 5061. I would have voted "yes" on both of these rollcall votes.

#### TRIBUTE TO SHALER AREA HIGH SCHOOL LADY TITANS AAAA VARSITY SOFTBALL TEAM

#### HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 11, 2006*

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Shaler

Area High School Lady Titans AAAA Varsity Softball Team.

These young women displayed both skill and tenacity on the field, and they should be commended not only for their ability, but also their good sportsmanship. The Lady Titans' hard work and determination took them to the 2006 WPIAL Quad A where they were runners up and made them the 2006 Quad A PIAA State Champions.

I would like to recognize the following players: Lia Sorce, Erin Boyle, Megan Daley, Julie Stampfle, Megan Lynch, Joci Delaney, Val Smolter, Kristin Devlin, Kristen Lynch, Melissa McQuade, Jen Simile, Lisa Huber, Erin Fieldhouse, Heather Elstner, Stevie Stanek, Jenna Conrad, Sarah Knaus, and Becca Lynch. I would also like to recognize Head Coach Skip Palmer, Assistant Coaches Tom Haser and Brad Stone, Athletic Trainer Bill Coutts, Athletic Director Paul Holszhu, and Principal William Suit.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the Lady Titans Varsity Softball Team. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute such an outstanding group of athletes.

#### RECOGNIZING EDGEWOOD INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT'S EFFORTS TO INCREASE STUDENT INTEREST IN SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATHEMATICS

#### HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 11, 2006*

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Edgewood ISD's efforts to increase student interest in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) careers.

It has become apparent that in this increasingly globalized world, our Nation's foothold as a global economic leader is becoming less stable everyday. Furthermore, in today's economy, jobs in technical fields are growing at five times the rate of other occupations, and they pay better. For these reasons, it is imperative that our young people develop the math and science skills that are instrumental in allowing them to become world leaders in technology and innovation, thus enabling the United States to maintain its global economic edge.

I am very proud of the efforts that Edgewood ISD is making to prepare its students with such skills. In 2001, Edgewood entered a team in the FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) robotics competition as part of its Engineering Principles class. The Toltechs, also known as robotics team #499, have excelled in the FIRST competitions that require high school teams to design, assemble; and test a robot capable of performing a specified task. The students have shown great enthusiasm as they have gained proficiency in engineering and research. This excitement will no doubt encourage many of them to pursue careers in STEM fields.

Edgewood ISD has recognized the importance of this type of learning by supporting the

development and growth of the Toltechs over the years. The team has also received generous support from and strong partnership with a number of private industries in their community. The evolution of the Toltechs demonstrates how schools and private industry can work together effectively to make a significant positive impact upon the lives of students.

More recently, Edgewood ISD has adopted another program to develop student's STEM skills. The Space TEAMS pilot in San Antonio targets middle school students from low income families, particularly girls, through a robotics competition called Botball. This exciting new program promises to also yield enthusiasm about STEM fields.

I recognize and honor the important opportunities that Edgewood ISD has provided to its students through programs such as FIRST and Space TEAMS. The skills and knowledge that these experiences provide, not to mention the sense of confidence and pride that they create, will benefit participants long after they have finished their primary education. I wish them continued success in their competitions and hope to see these types of programs flourish in our Nation's schools as we acknowledge the importance of arming our kids with STEM skills.

#### TRIBUTE TO MS. KATHRYN GENE SALEM

#### HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 11, 2006*

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of my good friend, Ms. Kathryn Gene Salem, Director of Mason County Action Group.

Ms. Salem has lovingly guided and nurtured the Mason County Action Group, molding it into an effective and productive agency in my congressional district. Ms. Salem's passion is shown in her desire to make seniors' lives better. Her selfless dedication to the community is evident through efforts coordinating and providing health, educational, recreational, and intergenerational services.

Ms. Salem's positive impact on the community will be felt for many years to come.

I join with the residents of Mason County and West Virginia in commending Ms. Salem for her outstanding ability to give to others for the past 28 years. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Ms. Salem's retirement.

#### INTERNATIONAL GAUCHER AWARENESS MONTH

#### HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 11, 2006*

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, once again I want to call attention to the important work of the National Gaucher Foundation, a group of very dedicated people who are as they describe their work engaged "in an ongoing endeavor to spread the word and help educate others about Gaucher Disease."